

proposed legislation relative to management and disposal of high-level radioactive wastes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-4298. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Aliens Inadmissible Under the Immigration and Nationality Act—Unlawful Voters" received on September 15, 2003; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-4299. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a modification of the 2003 Certification of Congress entitled "The Departments of Commerce, Justice, and State, the Judiciary and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 1990"; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-4300. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report detailing payments made to Cuba as a result of telecommunications services pursuant to Department of the Treasury specific licenses; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-4301. A communication from the Director, Office of Personnel Management, transmitting, and Administration legislative proposal to provide for review of certain determinations of the Board of Actuaries of the Civil Service Retirement System in accordance with the requirements of the Constitution; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-4302. A communication from the Deputy Archivist, National Archives and Records Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "NARA Facilities; Hours of Operation for the Exhibition Halls" (RIN3095-AB22) received on September 15, 2003; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-4303. A communication from the Deputy Archivist, National Archives and Records Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "NARA Facilities; Public Use" (RIN3095-AB17) received on September 15, 2003; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-4304. A communication from the Chairman, National Labor Relations Board, transmitting, the Board's 66th Annual Report; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-4305. A communication from the Archivist, National Archives and Records Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Administration's Commercial Activities Inventory and Inherently Governmental Inventory; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-4306. A communication from the Director of Personnel Management, transmitting, a legislative proposal entitled "To eliminate inequities in the compensation of certain Federal employees stationed outside the continental United States, and for other purposes"; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. REED (for himself, Mr. SARBANES, and Ms. MIKULSKI):

S. 1636. A bill to preserve the ability of the Federal Housing Administration to insure mortgages under section 238 and 519 of the National Housing Act; considered and passed.

By Mr. FRIST (for Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself, Mr. BAUCUS, and Mr. HATCH)):

S. 1637. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to comply with the World Trade Organization rulings on the FSC/ETI benefit in a manner that preserves jobs and production activities in the United States, to reform and simplify the international taxation rules of the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 1557

At the request of Mr. MCCONNELL, the name of the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1557, a bill to authorize the extension of nondiscriminatory treatment (normal trade relations treatment) to the products of Armenia.

S. CON. RES. 68

At the request of Mr. MILLER, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. Con. Res. 68, a concurrent resolution honoring the life of Johnny Cash.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS—SEPTEMBER 17, 2003

By Mr. AKAKA (for himself and Mr. INOUE):

S. 1632. A bill to extend eligibility for certain Federal benefits to citizens of the Freely Associated States; to the Committee on Finance.

Mr. AKAKA. Mr. President, I rise today to introduce legislation with my friend and colleague from Hawaii, Senator INOUE, to provide certain Federal public benefits for citizens of the Freely Associated States (FAS) who are residing in the United States. The bill would provide eligibility for non-emergency Medicaid, Food Stamps, Temporary Assistance to Needy Families, and Supplemental Security Income to FAS citizens residing in the United States.

Citizens from the FAS are citizens from the Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI), Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), and Palau. The United States has a very unique relationship with the FSM, RMI, and Palau. The Compact of Free Association established these Nations as sovereign States responsible for their own foreign policies. However, the Freely Associated States remain dependent upon the United States for military protection and economic assistance.

The Compact provides that the United States has the prerogative to reject the strategic use of, or military access to, the FAS by other countries, which is often referred to as the "right of strategic denial." The Compact also provides that the United States may block FAS government policies that it deems inconsistent with its duty to defend the FAS, which is referred to as the "defense veto." Under the Compact, the United States has exclusive military base rights in the FAS. In exchange, the United States is required

to support the FAS economically, with the goal of producing self-sufficiency, and FAS citizens are allowed entry into the United States as non-immigrants for the purposes of education, medical treatment, and employment.

The Senate is considering S.J. Res. 16, the Compact of Free Association Amendments Act of 2003, which was favorably reported by the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources this morning. S.J. Res. 16 is the codification of title II of the Compact pertaining to economic relations.

As FAS citizens are allowed free entry into the United States as part of the Compact, many FAS citizens reside in the State of Hawaii. Since 1997, when Hawaii began reporting its impact costs, the State has identified over \$140 million in costs associated with FAS citizens. In 2002, the State of Hawaii expended over \$32 million in assistance to FAS citizens. S.J. Res. 16 provides \$30 million in annual funding for Compact impact assistance to be shared between the State of Hawaii, Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and American Samoa. While this funding is a positive step forward, it does not begin to reimburse the affected jurisdictions for the costs associated with FAS citizens living in Hawaii.

The legislation we are introducing today would provide assistance to States and territories who have continued to shoulder the majority of the costs associated with the Compact. The Federal Government must provide appropriate resources to help States meet the needs of the FAS citizens—an obligation based on a Federal commitment. It is unconscionable for a State or territory to shoulder the entire financial burden of providing necessary education, medical, and social services to individuals who are residing in that State or territory when the obligation is that of the Federal Government. For that reason, I am seeking to provide reimbursement of these costs. It is time for the Federal Government to take up some of the financial responsibility that until now has been carried by the State of Hawaii, CNMI, and Guam, by restoring public benefits to FAS citizens.

This bill would restore eligibility of FAS citizens for non-emergency Medicaid. FAS citizens lost many of their public benefits as a result of the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity (PRWORA) Act of 1996, including Medicaid coverage. FAS citizens were previously eligible for Medicaid as aliens permanently residing under color of law in the United States.

After the enactment of welfare reform, the State of Hawaii could no longer claim Federal matching funds for services rendered to FAS citizens. Since then, the State of Hawaii, Guam, American Samoa, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands have continued to meet the health care needs of FAS citizens. The State of Hawaii has used State resources to provide Medicaid services to FAS citizens.